

DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Telephone : Devizes 701.

The Public Health Department,
Browfort,
DEVIZES,
Wiltshire.

To the Chairman and Members of the Devizes Rural District Council: -

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health of the District during the year 1961.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their attention and understanding of public health matters and the Clerk of the Council and Senior Public Health Inspector for their advice and help during the year.

I also wish to acknowledge the work done by Health Visitors, the Area Welfare Officer and other voluntary organisations, in caring for the handicapped and families in social difficulties in your area.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH J. ADAMS.

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

K.J. ADAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Univ. Lond.)

Senior Public Health Inspector :

G.E. WILLIAMS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., (also Surveyor and Water Engineer)

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

A.A. WHITING, A.I.A.S., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.
(also Deputy Surveyor and Deputy Water Engineer)

D.W.E. JESSETT

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	....	....	....	....	....	63,491
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	....	....	....	....	....	14,360
Number of Inhabited Houses	....	....	....	....	....	4,034
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1961.	....	....	....	....	....	£121,804
Estimated Product of 1d rate	....	....	....	....	....	£475

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates compared with other Areas (Births and Deaths per 1,000 population)

			<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
Devizes Rural District	....	....	18.33	8.56
England and Wales	....	....	17.4	12.0
Wiltshire	....	....	18.72	10.59
Devizes Borough	....	....	17.15	9.33

In calculating Birth and Death rates, area comparability factors are issued by the Registrar General to "correct" irregularities in the age and sex structure of the population, and also to take into account any high mortality due to the presence of residential institutions.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	<u>Legitimate</u>		<u>Illegitimate</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Live Births	133	87	3	2	225
Still Births	2	2	-	-	4
Deaths under 1 year	3	-	-	-	3
Deaths under 4 weeks	2	-	-	-	2
Deaths under 1 week	2	-	-	-	2

Infantile Mortality

The infantile mortality rate is the number of deaths among infants of under one year of age per 1,000 registered live births. There were three deaths among infants under one year of age to 225 births in the area. This is too small a figure to calculate for comparative purposes an accurate infantile mortality rate. The national rate is 21.4 deaths among infants under one year of age per thousand live births and the Wiltshire rate is 19.36.



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COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year :-

Measles	....	....	174
Whooping Cough	....	....	17
Scarlet Fever	....	....	13
Dysentery	....	....	2
Tuberculosis (other)	....	....	1
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	....	....	3
Meningococcal Infection	....	....	1
Erysipelas	....	....	1

Measles

1961 was a measles year and many children suffered from this lowering disease. There are some who feel a measles vaccine would be worth while, but although measles is easily diagnosed by its characteristic rash, there are many occasions in a child's life when he is just as ill as if he has measles but without the rash. A measles vaccine does not mean that the last serious infectious disease of childhood would be prevented. There must be many more serious virus diseases of childhood which have only general symptoms and produce no characteristic signs.

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified. A table showing notifications received nationally is set out below :-

Notifications of confirmed diphtheria for England and Wales 1961.				
	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.
Devon	-	-	-	1
Derby	2	-	-	-
Kent	-	1	-	-
Lancashire	-	-	-	1
London	14	11	3	-
Middlesex	1	-	-	-
Soke of Peterborough	-	1	-	-
Shropshire	-	-	1	-
Staffordshire	3	-	1	-
Worcestershire	2	-	-	-
West Sussex	-	2	-	-
Glamorganshire	2	1	-	4
Monmouthshire	-	-	1	-
Total Notifications	24	16	6	6

This table demonstrates how widely in England and Wales the few cases are occurring. There is no doubt there must be diphtheria carriers in Wiltshire which only an intensive immunisation campaign keep at bay.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the following figures relating to diphtheria immunisation :-

Year of Birth	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1952-56	1947-51
Primary Immunisations completed in 1961.	44	116	14	15	9	47	4
Reinf. injections administered in 1961.	-	3	9	8	12	203	10

Whooping Cough

The 17 cases notified are those children who had the disease severely enough for it to be diagnosed. Many cases more must have occurred where symptoms were modified by vaccination. The infection continued in the villages during the early months of 1961 having been disseminated in 1960. During such epidemics the cough is so infectious that numbers of pre-school children get the disease. Two children were under the age of three years and the disease has a more serious aspect in the very young.

Under the Wiltshire County Council Scheme the following number of children were vaccinated against Whooping Cough for the first time :-

Year of Birth	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1952-56	1947-51
Primary Immunisations completed in 1961.	43	113	14	15	6	9	2
Reinf. injections administered in 1961	-	-	9	9	1	27	3

Scarlet Fever

Thirteen cases of scarlet fever were notified; twelve were children of school age. At present the infection is mild but it can be spread by contamination of food stuffs, particularly milk. Visits are made to all homes of scarlet fever cases to find whether home contacts are food handlers, when each case is judged on its merits. At the home of a milker, enquiries are made whether the milk is sent for pasteurisation. If the milk is not heat-treated, efforts are made to arrange for the milker to be transferred to other work.

Dysentery

Two cases of this disease were notified after a minor epidemic at a children's training centre in another area. The two cases were quarantined at home until their stools were not infectious. The infection was caused by the mild *sonne* bacillus which now seems endemic among the general population. Although this infection is notifiable, there is little to choose between it in the severity of its symptoms and other summer diarrhoeas caused by viruses.

Many other minor investigations for diarrhoea in school children were carried out with negative stool reports resulting.

Tuberculosis

Three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, two of which occurred among army personnel. The Army Medical Officer did extensive follow-up of these cases including skin testing families and offering B.C.G. vaccination.

A fourth case of tuberculous glands occurred in a person who had had several changes of address in the months previous to the infection being diagnosed. This infection is rarely of bovine origin now-a-days as the whole of Great Britain was declared an attested area by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in October 1960. The milk consumed by this patient was, in any case, pasteurised before being sold to the public in this area.

Meningitis

A case of meningococcal meningitis was notified towards the close of the year. Classically enough this case occurred during a cold snap when ventilation in homes was likely to be minimal. Quarantine measures were applied to other children in the family. The disease itself is not considered to be very infectious.

Undulant Fever (Brucellosis)

No notifications of this disease were received during the year but one suspect source of infected milk underwent thorough investigation. Some eighty samples of milk from individual cows of two herds were sent to the laboratory. Recent vaccination with S 19 does at times mask tests for *Brucella abortus* and so it proved in this case.

SUMMARY OF DEATHS

				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Infectious Disease:	Influenza	....	....	0	2
	Syphilis	....	....	1	1
	Tuberculosis	....	....	0	0
Respiratory Disease:	Pneumonia	....	....	12	9
	Bronchitis	....	....	4	1
	Other	....	....	2	0
Cancer:	Stomach	....	....	2	0
	Lung	....	....	4	0
	Breast	....	....	0	2
	Uterus	....	....	0	6
	Blood	....	....	1	0
	Other	....	....	6	5
Heart:	Coronary disease	....	....	15	21
	Brain Haemorrhage	....	....	11	9
	High Blood Pressure	....	....	2	9
	Other	....	....	10	32
Diabetes	....	....	....	0	1
Nephritis	....	....	....	0	0
Gastritis and Enteritis	....	....	....	1	0
Homicide and operations of war	....	....	....	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	....	....	....	1	0
All other accidents	....	....	....	3	0
Suicide	....	....	....	0	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	....	....	....	15	13
TOTAL				<u>91</u>	<u>114</u>

CAUSES OF DEATH

We all must die one day but some of us die before our time owing to accidents and preventable disease.

LUNG CANCER which caused four deaths is a case in point. There is a definite statistical association between the incidence of lung cancer and cigarette smoking which is foolish to ignore, especially as the national death rate from this disease is rising in an alarming fashion.

Accidental Death which accounted for four deaths in the district is again, to a certain extent, preventable by proper planning of the home and workshop, and by giving greater thought to road safety.

Coronary Disease causing thirty-six deaths is another disease associated with a way of life - the Western way of life. It seems to go hand-in-hand with absence of regular exercise and a high quality diet. Why drive when you can walk? Why use lard and butter in cooking when it seems that the unsaturated fats of vegetable origin are less harmful?

The interesting point about modern disease prevention is that to take advice does not necessarily touch your pocket. On the contrary, to avoid Lung Cancer and Coronary Disease, you will actually save money.

HOUSING

Many persons try to obtain support for their rehousing applications on medical grounds, and it is important always to visit in order to sort out those genuinely in need of help. Occasionally I suspect the present house cannot be made fit at reasonable expense and ask that a thorough inspection of its structure be made by the Public Health Inspectors. On one occasion this year I felt that a house, already subject to a Closing Order, was dangerous. Regular inspection of houses is carried out by the Department. It has also been found that much useful information can be obtained from the Council House application forms. Comments about housing and medical matters referred to on the form, but not necessarily stressed as a complaint, are now further investigated and proper action taken. Prospective tenants are often shy about formally complaining of houses in ill-repair as such charges strain relationships with their Landlord.

Often landlord and tenant alike are quite unaware of the advantages of one of the Government Grant Schemes towards better homes.

DRAINAGE

Several complaints about unsatisfactory drainage were received. These included dis-satisfaction with the disposal of sullage water from the houses at Rangebourne, Potterne, and another was bad drainage of a ditch at Marden. Perhaps the two worst areas affected were Poulshot Village and the ditches at Sells Green, with the drainage of Cleeve Hill, Seend Cleeve, a good third at the time I saw it.

The Council have a list of priority schemes for main sewerage which is the only true answer to these drainage nuisances.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION.47 NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

It was not necessary to invoke the use of these Acts to admit any old persons to hospital during the year.

CARE OF THE ELDERLY

The plight of old persons in rural areas is often grave. Their life is harder than that for their counterparts in towns. The cottages in which they live are often built in unsuitable places on odd pieces of valueless land. The approach to them is sometimes steep, and because of low rents it is difficult to keep their cottages in repair. Often old-fashioned fire grates send most of the heat up the chimney and toilets are approached over rough ground at the bottom of the garden. Gardens rapidly become overgrown and stairs cannot be negotiated.

Some Parishes organise their own visiting systems, and welfare authorities help in more remote circumstances. Good neighbours and some home helps do much to alleviate suffering and keep the aged in their own homes. The Public Health Inspectors and I visit where we know there is an old person but all too often someone gets into a difficult plight because we are ignorant that he is there.

Bungalows suitable for the aged are built on many Council Estates, but many more are needed. On the principle of providing the greatest good for the greatest number with the money available there is much to be said for the one-bedroomed flat. Theoretical objections about sleeping relatives can be overcome by having a good-sized living room and a studio couch. People do not apply for bungalows in advance, they apply when they see them being built. The potential demand for small accommodation is much higher than waiting lists demonstrate.

Group dwellings for the elderly will do much to make the chronic sick hospital obsolete. Groups of old persons holding the key to their own individual front doors will live under the friendly eye of a warden. They will be entirely responsible for their own homes and need take no part in the communal life of a group dwelling unless they wish.

Such buildings have central heating, covered passageways between homes, and some share non-essential accommodation, such as a lounge, laundry room and guest bedroom. A start is being made at West Lavington in 1962 to build such a dwelling. Similar groups of homes are planned for Bromham and Urchfont.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1961.

To the Chairman and Members of the Devizes Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year, 1961.

The year to which this report relates has been a busy one, water and sewerage schemes were proceeding apace, the building trade was overloaded and the spate of new legislation must have broken all records. Fairly good progress was made in slum clearance and very substantial progress in improving the standard of pre-war Council houses and private property through the medium of the Improvement Grant schemes.

I wish to thank the Council for their appreciation, understanding and support. The patience and diligent attention which members give to matters that are at times dull, repetitive and boring is to me a source of wonder and admiration.

My thanks also to the Chief Officers and particularly your Medical Officer of Health for information, advice and help always readily given. My grateful acknowledgement also to your Treasurer for costs extracted from his report.

Life is sweeter and business is conducted more advantageously to all concerned if you have a cheerful and conscientious staff who know their job. This I have in full measure and I cordially acknowledge my gratitude to them.

The Council's organisation would not tick without the vital complement of workmen. Although the labour force changes considerably over one year the Council has a nucleus of men headed by an intelligent and diligent foreman who gives excellent service at all times.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

G.E.WILLIAMS.

Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING GENERAL.

New Dwellings.

Fourteen dwellings were erected by the Council and 26 dwellings by private enterprise in 1961, a small number compared with previous years.

Improvement Grants.

During the year 15 Discretionary Grants were approved. The total cost of the work was £19,676 and the total amount of grants paid was £8,660. In the same period 44 Standard Grants were approved. The cost of the works was approximately £11,500 and the total paid in grants was £5,750. As a result of the "pay pause" policy of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Council decided to suspend for a period of six months commencing 15th Augst, 1961, the payment of any new Discretionary Grants.

From the date of the first Improvement Grant approval - 16th December, 1951, the total capital cost of improving 359 dwellings was £243,000 and of this sum the Council paid the owners thereof a total of £92,500. In addition to the above, 128 Council houses have been improved.

The Improvement Grant schemes are undoubtedly playing a most useful part in the overall aim of raising the standard of housing accommodation. They rank a close second to the provision of new houses and it is to be hoped that the Council will soon feel able to restore Discretionary Grants. The Council's record in implementing the Improvement Grant schemes is beyond any question of doubt a good one and is certainly among the most progressive in Wiltshire.

Slum Clearance and Repair Action.

Four houses were demolished during the year. Demolition Orders were made on 7 dwellings and Closing Orders on 8. The total number of dwellings which were the subject of Closing Orders or Demolition Orders and which were still standing was 49. Three houses were lost during the year due to conversion of two or more into one.

More detailed particulars of the action taken both in regard to Slum Clearance and Repair are set out in the Annual Return made to the County Medical Officer of Health which is reproduced in Appendix i.

Housing for Aged Persons.

For several years the Government has laid increasing emphasis on the need to provide the particular type of housing accommodation required for the aged. They have offered special financial inducements to this end. During the year land was acquired at an excellent site in West Lavington and detailed consideration was given to the problems associated with an Aged Persons Grouped Scheme.

It is proposed to provide a central two-storied block comprising 2 - one bedroomed flats, 1 - double bed-sitting room, 8 - single bed-sitting rooms with shared bathrooms, a communal recreation room, laundry and drying room and stores, warden's accommodation and guest room. Most of the services i.e., central heating, domestic hot water supply, laundry facilities, recreation room and the lighting of certain parts of the building will be provided by the Council at an inclusive sum in the rent charge.

A resident warden will be responsible for cleaning the communal portions of the accommodation and for limited attention to the needs of the occupants in the event of an emergency or sickness.

Attached to the main block and connected to it by covered ways are 7 - one bedroomed bungalows in two blocks. It is the first scheme of its kind on which the Council has embarked and, when completed, will undoubtedly help to make many persons happier and more comfortable in the eventide of their lives.

Council House Improvements and Repairs.

The advent of sewerage schemes in all the larger Parishes has enabled the task of modernising pre-war Council Houses to proceed apace. A bathroom, W.C., and domestic hot water supply were provided in 77 houses. The total number of houses modernised to date is 128. All tenants much appreciate the provision of facilities which greatly assist in a higher standard of personal and domestic cleanliness.

Many of the pre-war Council Houses are now over 35 years old and the time is approaching when quite costly repairs and renewals e.g., windows, pointing etc., will need to be undertaken. Apart from these major and relatively infrequent renewals, the Council's 914 houses are in a good state of repair. The cost of repairs during the year was approximately £12,000.

Reference has been made in previous reports to the long delays which all too frequently occur in effecting repairs, this is because all builders in the district are heavily committed in regard to the work they have in hand.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

WATER SUPPLY.

General Statistics.

The water undertaking comprises the following:-

Main sources: Chirton.	Two boreholes	one: 10,000 g.p.hour.
		one: 8,000 " "
VISTRE.	Two boreholes	each :5,000 " "
Great Cheverell.	One "	3,000 " "
	Two "	each :2,000 " "
Erlestone village supply.	Spring:	1,500 " "
Bulk supply from Chippenham Borough	}	180,000 galls day (Maximum)
Council boreholes via Calne and		
Chippenham R.D.C's mains.		
Bulk supply from Devizes Borough	}	82,000 galls day (Maximum)
boreholes at Bourton.		
Bulk supply from Devizes Borough	}	For an unspecified (but limited) commitment.
for The Fairway, Roundway village,		
Roundway Park and Trading Estate.		

Reservoirs: There are seven reservoirs in the district having a total capacity of 875,000 gallons. The S.W. reservoir (250,000 gallons) was completed in June.

Water mains: There are 88 miles of water mains.

Water consumption statistics.

1. Total number of premises supplied.	3,692.
2. Estimated population supplied.	11,488.
3. Total number of metered connections.	688.
4. Total number of domestic connections.	2,977.
5. Total number of other connections.	30.
6. Estimated overall consumption.	161,555,000. gallons.
7. Estimated metered consumption.	58,159,800 "
8. Estimated total domestic consumption.	103,395,200 "

9. Estimated average domestic consumption
per head of population per diem. 24.7 gallons.
10. Estimated average overall consumption
per head of population per diem. 38.5 "
11. Supplied by public standpipe: Nil.

The population of the Council's area is 14,360. A proportion of this population (for which no figures are available) reside in the War Department barracks and the Mental Hospital. These establishments are supplied partly by the Devizes Borough and partly from a private source. It is estimated that a public piped water supply is at present available to approximately 97 per cent of the population.

It should be noted that numbers 7-10 above are estimated figures. It is not possible to give precise figures as the water which is recorded by most service meters, e.g., farms, is used for both domestic and non-domestic purposes. Again, an estimated population is used in arriving at these figures as a physical count is not practicable. Notwithstanding these assumptions, the figures may be taken as reasonably reliable.

The domestic consumption per head of population, per day, viz: 24.7 gallons, shows a decrease of approximately 1.7% over the figure for 1960.

The corresponding figures for recent years are:-

1955 :	21.62	gallons	per	day.	1958 :	21.25	gallons	per	day.
1956 :	22.44	"	"	"	1959 :	25.09	"	"	"
1957 :	20.11	"	"	"	1960 :	26.4	"	"	"

The Council's network of water mains is now complete, it is extensive and comprehensive and with the exception of 2 or 3 miles out of the total 88, is in good order.

Reservoir capacity is equivalent to $1\frac{1}{2}$ days maximum demand and can be regarded as adequate.

Pumping machinery and plant in general are in good order. Pressures and volume are adequate at practically all points.

General observations.

The virtual completion of the South Western Water Scheme during 1961 provided total water supply covereage for the whole district. Thus the plan prepared immediately after the war for a comprehensive scheme reached its final phase although in considerably modified form from that originally contemplated.

The failure of the Chippenham Borough Council's source in November and December was dramatically sudden and unexpected. There was a widespread belief abroad that here was a supply sufficient and ample for 30 years (the period of time on which water schemes are usually based). Quite obviously this belief was not based on facts, or accurate assessment and the consequences were and still could be grave.

Fortunately the Council was able to supply most of the area affected (i.e., the North Western scheme) from other sources. But such alternatives are neither convenient nor satisfactory and under conditions of Summer time demands would result in a poor supply to some consumers. Schemes were formulated to safeguard consumers against further failure of the Chippenham source and it is hoped that some of these will be completed before the summer of 1962.

South Western scheme.

This scheme, which was carried out in two stages at a cost of about £60,000, was completed during the year.

It was primarily an augmentation scheme and included the provision of a public water supply in the Parishes of West Lavington and Little Cheverell.

There is a privately owned water undertaking in the Parish of West Lavington and agreement was reached with the owner this this scheme would be abandonned when the Council's scheme was completed.

The completion of the South Western scheme enabled the village of Erlestoke to be supplied from the VISTRE source and the use of the Erlestoke village source was discontinued.

Consumption and analysis statistics.

The Margin between the safe reliable yield of all sources and the maximum daily consumption.

The following table shows the safe reliable yield of all sources from which the Council obtains water and the case of those sources which it owns, namely nos. 1,2,3 and 4, is based on 18 hours pumping per day from one borehole only.

<u>Station.</u>	<u>Yield in gallons per day.</u>
1. Great Cheverell boreholes.(3 boreholes)	63,000
2. Chirton Boreholes. (2 boreholes)	144,000
3. VISTRE Boreholes. (2 boreholes)	90,000
4. Erlestoke village.	27,000
5. Bulk supply: Calne & Chippenham R.D.C.	180,000
6. " " : Devizes Borough N.E.	82,000
7. " " : Devizes Borough. (Nursteed, Fairway, Roundway etc). }	20,000
	<hr/> 606,000 <hr/>

This estimate is a conservative one except in the case of the bulk supply from Calne & Chippenham R.D.C., where the water is obtained from the Chippenham Borough source. Having regard to the failure which occurred in November and December it could well be that the figure of 180,00 gallons per day should be reduced.

The estimated maximum daily consumption is 570,000 gallons per day. The surplus of supply over demand is therefore 36,000 g.p.d. Because water consumption is rising steadily, this margin is far too small. The position will be considerably improved by the provision of a third borehole adjacent to the two existing boreholes at VISTRE camp, Erlestoke, and the initial steps were taken to resuscitate this proposal which was previously deferred by the Ministry. It was also decided to lay a link main from the South Eastern scheme to the South Western scheme i.e., the Crookwood link, to secure a better distribution of the existing sources and other benefits.

Table 1.

The amount of water supplied in 1961 from Great Cheverell, Chirton, Erlestone, Devizes Borough, Calne & Chippenham R.D.C., etc. sources, expressed in thousands of gallons per month.

1961.	Great Cheverell.	The Fairway.	Nur- stead.	Roundway village.	Roundway Park.	Roundway Trading Estate.	N.E. Bourton.	N.W. Wans Cross.	S.E. Chirton.	Erle- Stoke Village.	Erle- Stoke W.D.	Total.
Jan.	3671	93	11	20	244	223	1142	3495	2794	150	422	12265
Feb.	3401	57	12	20	198	254	973	2711	2597	155	422	10800
March.	3799	61	13	27	208	241	941	3856	2814	164	388	12552
April.	3752	68	18	33	233	246	1003	4329	2854	160	416	13142
May.	4060	71	18	36	264	307	1117	4803	3369	166	376	14587
June.	4580	126	29	48	333	391	1357	5795	3914	144	304	17021
July.	712	99	21	44	262	341	1143	5012	2791	139	5185	15749
Aug.	147	81	19	28	202	363	1137	4450	2339	93	5512	14371
Sept.	98	71	14	40	172	339	1154	4411	2216	-	5110	13625
Oct.	59	67	14	24	184	309	1077	3807	2144	-	5072	12757
Nov.	226	227	13	36	173	360	1082	3147	2028	-	4920	12212
Dec.	1168	1116	16	37	211	352	1198	1057	3819	-	3530	12504
Total.	25673	2137	198	393	2684	3726	13324	46913	33679	1171	31657	161555

1958.

1959.

1960.

1961.

Daily average consumption : Gallons 334,682

Increase in annual consumption: Thousand gallons

16,499
15.61%23,131
18.94%12,345
8.50%3,919
1.0%

The figures shown below give quantities of water obtained per annum from various sources, the figures in brackets being the percentage from each source.

1959.

1960.

1961.

Great Cheverell.

Chirton.

Erlestone village.

VISTRE, Erlestone.

Devizes Borough (a) N.E.

(b) Others.

Chippenham Borough.

35,468,000 (24.41%)
33,075,000 (22.73%)
1,868,000 (1.29%)
542,000 (3.7%)
10,543,000 (7.26%)
8,672,000 (5.97%)
55,123,000 (37.94%)
145,291,000

42,743,000 (27.12%)
31,782,000 (22.76%)
2,056,000 (1.30%)
14,128,000 (8.96%)
19,952,000 (6.95%)
7,682,000 (4.87%)
48,293,000 (30.64%)
157,636,000

15,987,000 (9.9%)
33,679,000 (20.8%)
1,171,000 (.7%)
41,343,000 (25.6%)
13,324,000 (8.2%)
9,138,000 (5.7%)
46,913,000 (29.1%)
161,555,000

Results of bacteriological examinations after treatment.

South Eastern Scheme.

12.1.61 Satisfactory.
15.3.61 "
19.4.61 "
19.6.61 "
14.8.61 "
31.8.61(2) "
18.9.61 "
28.11.61 "

North Eastern Scheme.

9.1.61 Satisfactory.
1.2.61 "
19.6.61 "
15.5.61 "
15.8.61 "
9.10.61 "
9.10.61 Slight pollution.

North Western scheme.

10.1.61(2) Satisfactory.
1.2.61 "
15.5.61 "
19.6.61 "
15.8.61 "
1.9.61(2) "
9.10.61(2) "
7.11.61 "
28.11.61 "
7.12.61 "
12.12.61 "

South Western Scheme.

16.6.61 Satisfactory.
17.2.61(3) "
20.1.61(2) "
3.3.61(2) "
15.3.61 "
19.4.61 "
23.5.61 "
19.6.61 "
4.7.61(2) "
14.8.61(2) Slight pollution.
14.8.61(2) Satisfactory.
31.8.61(3) "
9.10.61(2) Slight pollution.
9.10.61 Satisfactory.
27.10.61(3) "
1.11.61 "
8.11.61 Slight pollution.
13.11.61(2) Satisfactory.
28.11.61 "
13.12.61(2) "

Erlestone Village.

16.1.61 Satisfactory.
19.4.61 "
23.5.61 "
14.8.61 Slight pollution.
(Now out of use).

No bacteriological examination of raw water was carried out in 1961.

None of the water supplied to consumers is plumbo-solvent.

In the event of contamination, the chlorination of the water supply is carefully checked and, if necessary, adjusted and the mains in the locality affected are flushed.

Private Water Supplies.

West Lavington Estate. As already stated, the West Lavington Estate supply will be abandoned.

H.J. Sainsbury & Son, Littleton Panell.
This is still in use in West Lavington but some consumers have transferred to the Council's supply.

Mr. A.W. Coxhead, Littleton Panell.
Still in use but some consumers have transferred to the Council's supply.

M.J. Read Ltd. Stanton St. Bernard.
Still in use.

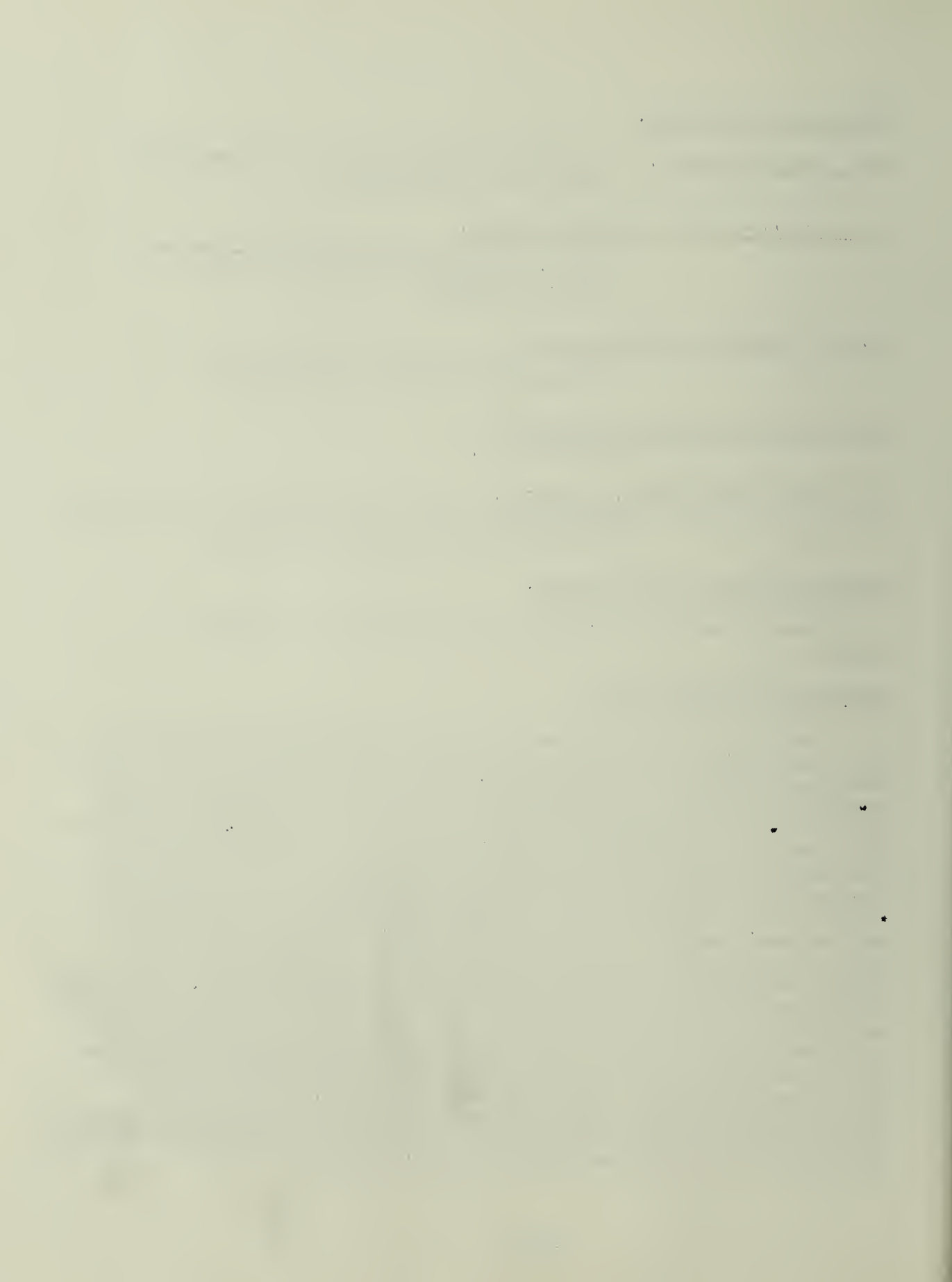
Old village water supply, Erlestone.
This supplies three farms which are a long distance from the Council's nearest water main.

Private supplies to one premises.

These consumers are gradually transferring to the Council's supply.

Transfer to the Water Board.

Many of the preliminaries prior to the transfer of the Council's water undertaking to the proposed North Wilts Water Board were dealt with. The Council has over a period of many years and particularly since 1952, provided an extensive and comprehensive system of water supply covering the whole of their district. The total cost is in the region of £360,000. They have fully discharged their duties under the Rural Water Supplies & Sewerage Act and will be in a position to hand over to the Water Board a modern and soundly engineered and managed undertaking. The adequacy of the sources will have to be carefully watched and if the undertaking were to remain under the control of the Council I would recommend that measures in addition to those already mentioned, be initiated to still further safeguard the supply. I cannot too strongly emphasise, particularly having regard to the numerous difficulties encountered in trying to acquire new sources that action must be taken well in advance of shortages that might not arise for several years hence. The problems posed in obtaining new sources will naturally be considered by the proposed Water Board in the context of the much larger area they will serve. It will be a pressing problem to which the Board will naturally give urgent consideration but it is fair to comment that the taking over of the Council's undertaking will not increase their embarrassment in this respect.



SEWERAGE.

In recent years the installation of sewerage schemes has proceeded at a good tempo. 1961 was a record year in this respect. Four schemes were under construction, viz, Bromham, West Lavington, Great Cheverell and Little Cheverell. The Bromham scheme was completed and part of the West Lavington scheme was completed and put into use.

Modern sewerage systems are now in operation for the following Parishes: Erlestone, Market Lavington, Urchfont (including Wedhampton), Seend, Potterne, Easterton, Bromham, Rowde, Stanton St. Bernard, Etchilhampton and part of West Lavington.

Eight sewage disposal works, nine pumping stations and 20 miles of sewers have been constructed and are in use at a cost of about £340,000, in the last few years. The overall cost per mile of sewer is in the region of £17,000. The annual cost of operating these schemes is approximately £6,000.

The rapid transition from medieval to modern sanitation which is taking place in these Parishes where a sewerage system is in operation is appreciated by all householders. The cost may appear high but the benefits of health, convenience and living standard cannot be computed in terms of cash.

Future schemes.

Despite the large amount of work already carried out in the provision of sewerage schemes, there are still a number of villages or parts of Parishes for which the Council hope to make provision in the next few years. A table of priorities has been decided as follows:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Stage 3, Potterne. | 11. Marsh Lane, Rowde. |
| 2. Poulshot, Worton & Marston. | 12. Allington. |
| 3. Sells Green. | 13. The Sands, Drove Lane,
Market Lavington. |
| 4. Chirton & Conock. | 14. Chittoe. |
| 5. Coate & Little Horton. | 15. Stert. |
| 6. Horton. | 16. Beechingstoke. |
| 7. All Cannings. | 17. Eastcott. |
| 8. Bishops Cannings. | 18. Roundway village. |
| 9. Marden. | 19. Seend Cleeve. |
| 10. Patney. | |

Samples of effluent.

Samples are submitted for analysis and occasionally the results are below the standard required. Some difficulty has been experienced in regard to the effluent from the Urchfont plant. It would appear that the sewage has a far higher pollution load than normal. It is hoped by a process of elimination to trace the cause of the trouble and take measures to secure more satisfactory results.

SHOPS.

The number of shops in the district remains at a fairly constant figure with few changes of occupiers. The interior of the general village shop has changed almost out of recognition during the past ten years - chilled cabinets, laminated plastic counter tops, glass shelving, easily cleaned and hygienic display cabinets etc., are now the order of the day and their provision is encouraged by this Department.

The mobile shop has done much to ease the burden of the housewife living in an isolated property, bringing a large variety of goods twice weekly to her door. Many of these vans are purpose made but others are converted buses, private cars etc., and require frequent inspection to ensure that they comply with the regulations.

FOOD PREMISES.

Food premises have again received particular attention from the Department especially during the summer months. Owners of shops selling "open foods" have been impressed with the necessity for guarding against contamination by insects, dust, careless employees and intending purchasers.

The number of premises registered for the manufacture of sausages and preserved foods under section 16 of the Foods & Drugs Actm 1955, is 4.

Number and types of food premises:

General Retail food shops.	Licenced premises.	Butcher's shops.	Bake- houses.	Fried Fish Shops.	Hospitals Schools & Institutes.	Cafes & Licenced premises serving full meals.
48	46	7	6	2	25	4

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

The purpose of this legislation is to reduce the incidence of certain virulent diseases which harass the farmers and cost the nation large sums of money as compensation.

The number of premises licenced for the boiling of waste food is 5. Occupiers of premises have been most co-operative in carrying out the requirements of the law and the suggestions of your Officers to ensure proper sterilisation and after-treatment of the waste foods.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The two slaughterhouses in the district have installed stunning pens and now comply fully with hygiene and cruelty regulations. Teething trouble was experienced with the pens but this has been overcome with minor modifications and a change in technique. Both premises are maintained to a good hygienic standard and the slaughtermen carry out their duties in a competent manner.

The number of carcasses inspected and condemned was as follows:-

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed and inspected.	555	118	38	702	1545
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCOSIS.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	6	4	-	-	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease.	1.08%	3.39%	-	-	0.52%
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	0.13%
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS.</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-
Generally and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with cysticercosis.	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1959.

Garages, which constitute a high percentage of the factories in the district have received particular attention during the year and owners have been asked to install W.Cs and connect them to the new sewers where such exist.

The Factories Inspector has referred one case of infringement to this Department which was promptly dealt with.

Details of visits and defects found etc., are as follows:-

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspec- tions.	Number of written notices.	Occup- iers prosecu- ted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which section 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority. (Not using mechanical power).	1	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (Using mechanical power).	54	40	3	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (Excluding out-worker's premises.)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	55	41	3	-

Part VIII of the Act - OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111).

The number of outworkers employed in making wearing apparel was nine. All premises were satisfactory.

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	by H.M. Inspector.	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding. (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature. (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences. (S7)					
(a) Insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	1	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	4	5	-	1	-

MILK SUPPLIES.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1960, introduced a number of changes, the most important being that licencing and sampling would be carried out by the County Council as the Food & Drugs Authority.

After considerable delay the County Council eventually delegated the majority of the duties, including licencing and sampling, back to the District Councils.

The number of Producer/Retailers and Distributors of raw milk was 5. The number of distributors selling pasteurised milk was 6.

Sampling results:

	Passed.	Failed.	Total.
Methylene Blue test (for keeping quality, Tuberculin tested milk).	33	4	37
Phosphatase test (for efficient pasteurisation).	17	-	17
Biological test (for presence of tubercle bacillus and Brucella abortus).	29	-	29

In addition to the above, three samples of bottle washes were taken and found satisfactory.

ICE CREAM.

The number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream is 42. Every premises has been inspected and only a small number of improvements were required and these were dealt with by informal action.

Sampling results:

	<u>Provisional Grades of Cleanliness.</u>				
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	Total.
Manufacturer A	16	-	-	-	16
B	16	-	-	-	16
C	11	-	-	-	11
D	9	-	-	-	9
	52	-	-	-	52

The Public Health Laboratory service suggests that 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade I, 80% into grades I or II, not more than 20% into Grade III and none into Grade IV.

One Ice Lolly was submitted for examination and this produced a satisfactory pH value.

These are excellent results and show that manufacturers are producing a product of a high standard of cleanliness and that retailers are storing it in ideal conditions.

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS & BUILDING BYELAWS.

The number of applications submitted under the above Act and Byelaws showed an increase of 26% over the previous year. Details of the applications are as follows:-

Total number of applications:	402		
Building Byelaws :	241	approved	1 refused.
Town & Country Planning Acts :	165	"	32 "

There were five appeals to the Ministry all of which were refused.

The vast increase in building land values over the past two years or so has undoubtedly encouraged many landowners to seek outline planning permission. Some of these involve much negotiation on both planning considerations and the provision of public services.

Harmonious relationships are maintained with the County Planning Authority despite differences of opinion which occasionally and almost inevitably arise on the issues involved. Although the system of delegation of powers from the County Council to the Rural District Council is hedged with many provisos it works reasonably well.

CARAVAN SITES.

The Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960, drastically altered the licencing procedure in respect of all caravan sites. As the Act was retrospective it was necessary for the Council to reconsider all existing licences during the early part of the year. It was found that a number of site operators voluntarily cut down on the number of caravans or gave up the site completely as they were unable to comply with the conditions of the site licence. One operator with specific planning permission will not renew his licence for eight vans when it expires in 1963.

There are a number of exemptions under the new Act, the most important being, as far as this Department is concerned, that caravans sited within the curtilage of a dwelling and whose use is incidental to the enjoyment of the house, do not now require to be licenced.

The total number of caravan site licences is 24. Of these 19 are for single vans, two for 2 vans each, 1 for 4 permanent vans and two temporary holiday vans and two for 8 vans each.

A further application for a holiday site for 15 caravans was approved at the end of the year. This is a new venture in the area and the amenities will consist of a new access, hard roadways, toilet blocks comprising W.Cs, baths and laundry accommodation. The caravans are to be on the site during the months June-October only.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMPLAINTS.

Type of complaints.	Number.	Remedied.	Outstanding.	No action necessary.
Housing (excluding Council housing).	15	8	6	1
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-
Insanitary houses.	1	1	-	-
Sewerage.	1	-	-	1
Drainage.	7	6	1	-
River pollution.	-	-	-	-
Water.	3	3	-	-
Refuse.	2	2	-	-
Keeping of animals.	4	4	-	-
Fly infestation.	2	2	-	-
Rodent infestation.	-	-	-	-
Footpaths.	3	3	-	-
Smoke.	1	1	-	-
Offensive accumulations.	4	1	-	-
Miscellaneous.	1	1	-	-
Totals:	41	32	7	2

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Miscellaneous...	...	...	...	...	48
Housing....	...	...	...	...	303
Nuisances.	...	...	...	...	92
Drainage..	...	...	...	...	267
Sewerage..	...	...	...	...	218
Water supply	...	...	...	...	102
Water samples...	...	...	...	...	41
Dairies...	...	...	...	...	7
Milk sampling...	...	...	...	...	31
Food inspection.	...	...	...	...	202
Food shops.	...	...	...	...	150
Bakehouses.	...	...	...	...	11
Refuse....	...	...	...	...	31
Workshops & Factories.	...	...	...	...	40
Petroleum Regulations.	...	...	...	...	121
Rodent control..	...	...	...	...	4
Council houses..	...	...	...	...	1144
Town & Country Planning	...	...	...	...	102
Building inspection...	...	...	...	...	767
Infectious diseases...	...	...	...	...	30
Diseases in animals...	...	...	...	...	17

REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL.

Within its limitations, to which further reference is made later, the system of refuse collection operated smoothly and only a few complaints were received. The Council give a fortnightly kerbside collection at a remarkably low cost. The total cost of collections and disposal for the year ended 31st March, 1961, was £5,011 from which has to be deducted £2,050 for income received, giving a nett cost of £2,961. The approximate cost of the service per head of the population served was 4/1½d. According to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government's annual return of Refuse Service costs, the National average for Rural District Councils was 10/3d per head of population.

The total quantity of salvage collected in 1961 was :-

Scrap metal	:	£190.	10.	6.
Rags	:	53.	4.	6.
Paper	:	33.	9.	4.
		<u>£277.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>4.</u>

Twenty five per cent of this sum - £69. 6. 1d., was paid in bonus to the workmen engaged on this service.

The Council is fortunate in having a refuse tip which, although not geographically central, is well placed for serving the most populous part of the area. It is an old brickyard. A modified system of "controlled tipping" is operated. This is not as good as a fully controlled system, but it has the advantage of being very much cheaper. Thought must be given soon to providing a new tip and any suggestions from members of the Council would be appreciated.

A new 18 cu. yard fore and aft tipper Refuse Vehicle was purchased during the year.

To parody W.S. Gilbert "the dustman's lot is not a happy one". He is required to perform his duties in the blazing sun, rain, snow, fog or ice. He is expected to know that the paper parcel on the bin is not salvage but for the laundry ! If he thinks it is for the laundry and leaves it then of course, it is for salvage and should have been taken. When the bottom falls out of a derelict bin it was always bought last year. If he bangs the bin to get the wet soggy mess out an urgent telephone call keeps the office well advised regarding the vindictive habits of the dustman. If the refuse is not collected it is always the fault of the dustman, the householder never forgets to put his bin out at the appropriate time ! In the refuse collecting service the customer is always right !

Your workmen engaged on refuse collection and disposal do their work cheerfully, courteously and efficiently.

The Council have considered various methods of improving the Refuse Collecting service following a comprehensive report on the subject. The report showed that the estimated comparative costs of improving the service were as follows:-

<u>Method.</u>	<u>Total gross cost per annum.</u>	<u>Cost per person per annum.</u>
Fortnightly kerbside collection.	£4,734	6/3d
Weekly kerbside collection.	£6,375	6/11d
Fortnightly back-door collection.	£7,155	8/-d
Weekly back-door collection.	£10,425	12/4d
Weekly back-door paper sack system.	£11,995	14/5d
Fortnightly back-door paper sack system.	£8,170	9/4d

When these figures were prepared an allowance was made for the expected drop in income from the War Department.

The Council have already indicated that they will at a future date give favourable consideration to introducing one or the other of the improved methods.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

In 1960 the Council adopted a new standard of Licencing conditions and principals of construction for petroleum installations in accordance with the recommendations of the Home Office.

Much time has been spent in advising owners of petroleum installations of the many adaptations and improvements necessary to secure compliance with the new conditions and in supervising pressure tests on tanks over 20 years old.

By the end of the year and in some cases, after considerable pressure, most installations had been made to conform.

RODENT CONTROL.

Regular and systematic inspection and treatment of premises has been maintained during the year. Details of visits made and the treatment carried out are shown in the table below:

Sewers in most of the larger villages were test baited and results showed that there was no infestation.

The Council continues to share the services of the Rodent Operator with the Devizes Borough and with co-operation on both sides the arrangement works satisfactorily.

	Type of property.				
	Non-Agricultural.				(5) Agri- cult- ural.
	(1) Local Auth- ority.	(2) Dwelling houses (inc. Council houses.)	(3) All other (inc. business premises.)	(4) Total of cols (1) (2) & (3).	
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District.	9	3999	244	4252	845
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification.		77		77	
(b) Survey under the Act.	9	2653	2	2664	97
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose.	-	-	-	-	-
III. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections.	40	3129	2	3171	97

Table continued overleaf.....

	Type of property.				
	Non Agricultural.				(5)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
IV. Number of properties inspected (In Sec. I II) which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats - major.	3	81	1	85	10
minor.	6	169	1	176	29
(b) Mice - major.		6		6	
minor.	-	-	-	-	-
V. Number of infested properties (In sec. IV) treated by the Local Authority.	9	256	2	267	39
VI. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments.	36	256	2	294	39
VII. Number of notices served under Sec.4 of the act:					
(a) Treatment.	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Structural work. i.e. proofing.	-	-	-	-	-
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following issue of a notice under Sec.4 of the Act.	-	-	-	-	-
IX, Legal proceedings.	-	-	-	-	-
X. Number of "block" control schemes carried out.	26	-	-	-	-

Appendix i.

HOUSING GENERAL. Annual Return.

The following is a copy of the return made to the County Medical Officer of Health which is reproduced herewith giving detailed information on certain aspects of housing:-

1.	Number of permanent dwellings in the district at the end of the year	4133
2.	Number of permanent dwellings in the district owned by the Local Authority	915
3.	Number of temporary dwellings in the district owned by the Local Authority	Nil
4.	Number of applications for Council houses at the end of the year	347
5.	Inspection of dwellings during the year :	
(i)	Inspected for housing defects under the Public Health Acts.. ...	29
(ii)	Inspected for housing defects under the Housing Acts.. ...	26
(iii)	Number of dwellings so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation ...	5
(iv)	Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation ...	14
6.	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	98
7.	Action under Statutory powers:	
A.	Proceedings under sections 9,10,12, Housing Act, 1957.	
(i)	Number of dwellings where notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices (a) By owners	Nil
	(b) Local Authority in default	Nil.
B.	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :	
(i)	Number of dwellings where formal notices were served	Nil
(ii)	Number of dwellings made fit as a result of formal notices (a) By owners.. ...	Nil
	(b) Local Authority in default	Nil

C. Proceedings under section 16, Housing Act, 1957.

(i)	Number of demolition orders made	...	...	...	...	7
(ii)	Number of houses demolished as a result of demolition orders	...	...	...	...	4
(iii)	Number of Undertaking accepted	...	...	...	...	Nil
(iv)	Number of Undertaking completed	...	...	...	...	Nil

D. Proceedings under sections 42,43,46,18, Housing Act, 1957.

(i)	Number of houses in clearance areas upon which demolition orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii)	Number of houses demolished as a result of demolition orders	...	...	...	...	Nil
(iii)	Number of houses in clearance areas which have been retained as temporary accommodation	...	...	...	...	Nil

E. Proceedings under sections 17,18,27, Housing Act, 1957.

(i)	Number of dwellings where closing orders were made	...	8
(ii)	Number of dwellings closed as a result of Closing orders or Undertakings by owners	...	2
(iii)	Number of dwellings where Closing orders were cancelled in consequence of premises being made fit	...	1

F. Proceedings under section 76, Housing Act, 1957.

(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding at end of year	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii)	Number of cases of overcrowding discovered during the year	...	...	...	...	Nil
(iii)	Number of cases of overcrowding abated during the year	...	...	...	...	Nil

